(c) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) what measures Government propose to take to rejuvenate these tea gardens and to bring those depressed and economically helpless workers into the mainstream of Indian economy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

News-item captioned "Errant IT Official Vanishes"

3557. SHRI T. R. BALU:
SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to news-item captioned "Errant IT Official vanishes" which appeared in the Indian Post Bombay dated the 9th December, 1988;

(b) if so, whether the official has since been traced;

(c) whether it is a fact that there were some vigilance cases pending against the concerned official when he disappeared;

(d) whether the official was suspended pending enquiry against him; and

(e) what is the present position of the case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The officer was not missing.

(c) Yes, Sir. But subject to remarks given at (b) above.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Charge sheet has been served on the officer on 6.12.88.

State Law Minister's Conference

3558. SHRI T. R. BALU:
SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of conferences of State Law Ministers that were held during the last three years;

(b) what were the decisions taken at each Conference alongwith the date of the Conference;

(c) how many decisions taken at the conference have since been implemented; and

(d) what steps are being taken to implement the remaining decisions?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) None, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

"Allocation of funds for Mundanthurai and Kalakad sanctuaries in Tamil Nadu"

3559. SHRI T. R. BALU:
SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any funds under Operation Tiger' has been sanctioned to merge Mundanthurai and Kalakad sanctuaries in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) whether there is any tourism zone in these sanctuaries if so, the details thereof;

(d) how many tigers are there in these sanctuaries at present; and

(e) how much funds were allotted during the last three years and how much out of it has since been spent?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) and (b) A sum of Rs. 94.945 lakhs has been provided as central assistance under project Tiger to Mundanthurai and Kalakad sanctuaries in Tamil Nadu during 1988-89. The two sanctuaries have been merged to constitute the core areas of Mundanthurai-Kalakad Tiger Reserve. This amount is to be spent on preservation and development of forests and wildlife of this reserve.

(c) An area of 40 sq. kms is proposed to be managed as tourism zone out of a total of 800 sq. kms.

(d) Estimated number of tigers in these sanctuaries is reported to be 8 at present.

(e) The area was brought under project Tiger during 1988-89 only. It is expected that the entire amount sanctioned during the current financial year will be spent during the year.

Impact of chemicals on environment

3560. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the press report which appeared in the "Times of India" of 22nd February, 1989 to the effect that there is a considerable increase of Carbon Dioxide, Methane and other chemicals and about its impact on the environment in the country; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The steps taken by the Government of India to meet the situation include the following:

(i) Survey and protection of forests, afforestation programmes and waste-land development.

(ii) Soil conservation, protection of watershed areas, anti-desertification measures and protection of the quality of land.

(iii) Conservation of water and prevention and control of water pollution.

(iv) Prevention and control of air pollution.

(v) Measures for the development of non-conventional energy sources.

(vi) Measures for conservation of energy; and

(vii) Participation in international efforts to meet the situation.

राष्ट्रीय आवास बैंक

3561. **श्री शंकर सिंह वाघेला:** क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) देश में आवासों को बढ़ावा देने के लिए राष्ट्रीय आवास बैंक की कितनी शाखाएं खोली गई हैं और कितने राज्यों ने आवास वित्त निगम स्थापित कर दिए हैं, और

(ख) राष्ट्रीय आवास बैंक तथा आवास वित्त निगम कितनी धनराशि आवासों पर खर्च कर चुके हैं ?

वित्त मंत्रालय में आर्थिक कार्य विभाग में राज्य मंत्री (श्री एडुवर्डो फेलेरियो): (क) और (ख) राष्ट्रीय आवास बैंक की स्थापना कर दी गई है जिसका मुख्यालय नई दिल्ली में है और उक्त बैंक ने एक शाखा कार्यालय बम्बई में खोला है। भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक ने सूचित किया है कि राज्यों के आवास वित्त निगमों के संबंध में उसके द्वारा इस प्रकार की जानकारी एकत्र नहीं की जाती।

राष्ट्रीय आवास बैंक हिताधिकारियों को सीधे कोई ऋण नहीं देगा परन्तु पात्र बैंकों/संस्थाओं को, अधिक से अधिक 40 वर्ग मीटर के निर्मित क्षेत्र के नए आवासीय यूनिट खरीदने/बनाने के लिए